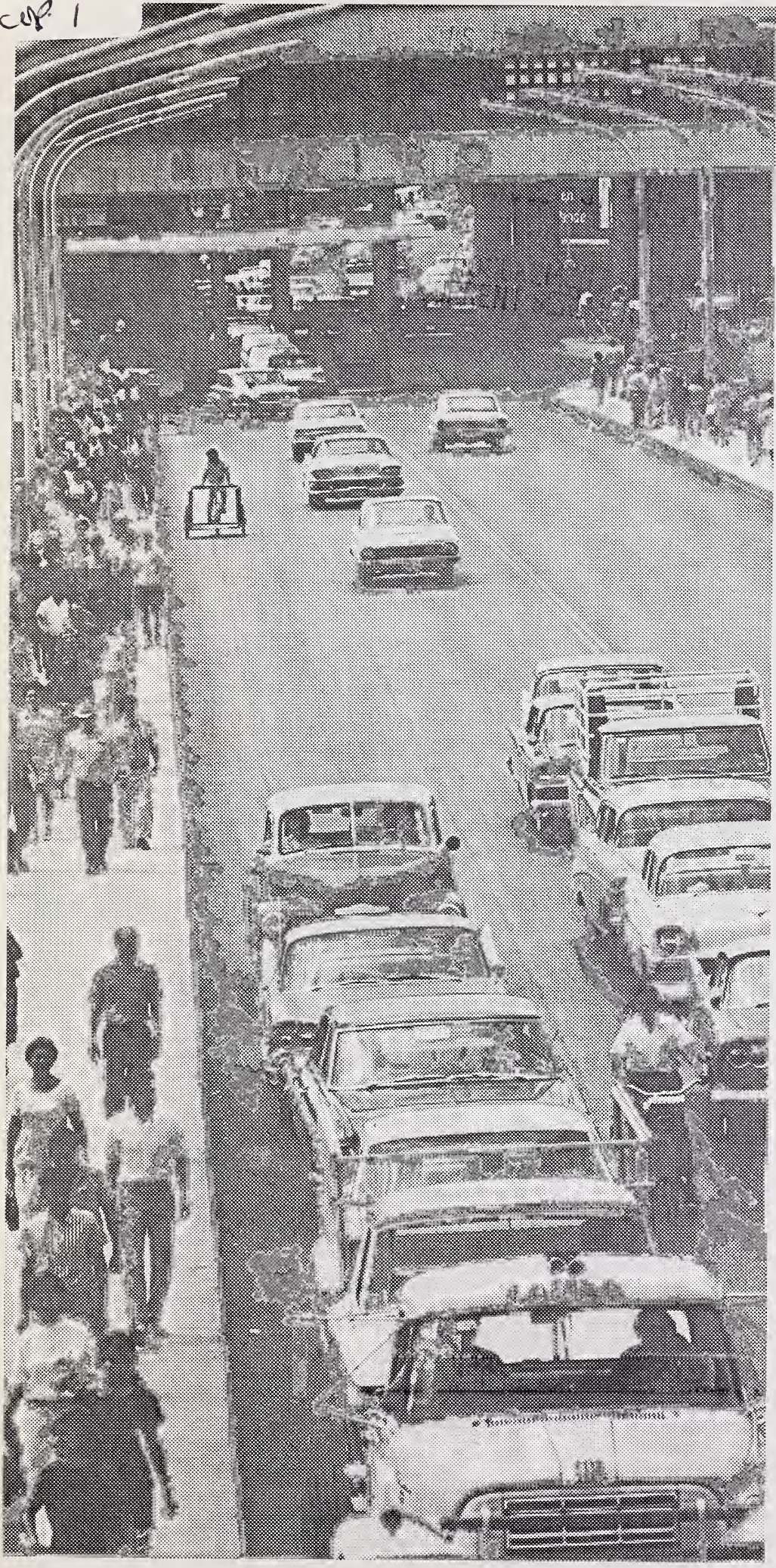


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AGRICULTURE INSPECTION ON MEXICAN BORDERS

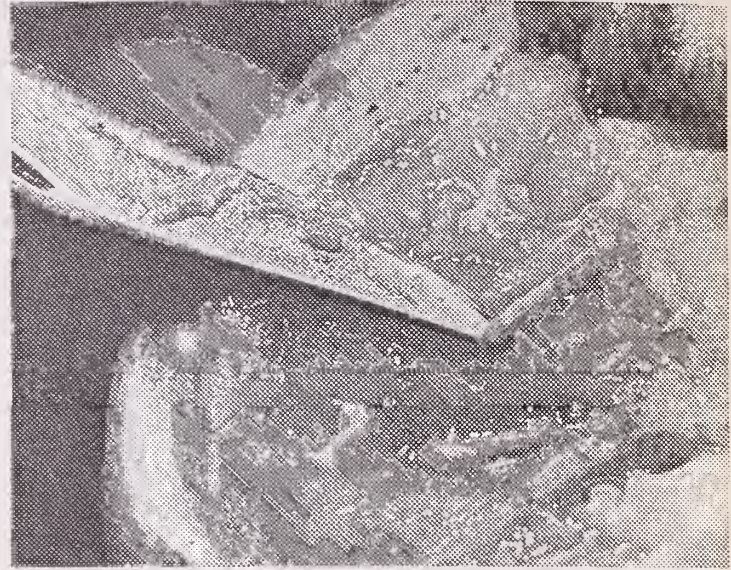
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH
INSPECTION SERVICE

PICTURE STORY 268 • AUGUST 1973



Agricultural inspectors examine and record confiscated items before destroying them. But intercepted pests are preserved for identification by USDA entomologists. This helps them keep abreast of the distribution of pests in foreign countries. (ST-2517-10, 0373X208-9)

Every month, millions of people cross into the United States from Mexico. They include day-laborers, domestics, vendors, shippers, and tourists. They come on foot or in cars, buses, taxis, trucks, or trains. Each individual and vehicle is checked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or a cooperating Federal agency—U.S. Customs, Immigration, or Public Health Service—to be sure they are not carrying agricultural pests in their belongings. (COVER PHOTO: ST-2513-19)

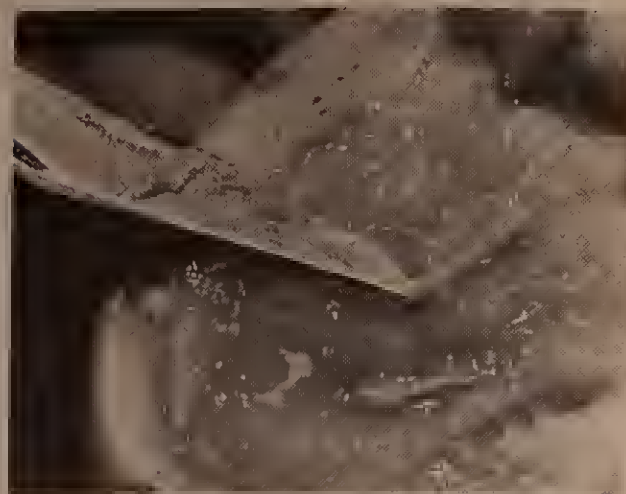


Most people can be cleared after a brief inspection, but if food items or plants are found a more extensive inspection must be conducted. Many residents along both sides of the border enjoy Mexican pork tamales and chicharrones, but all pork products have been banned due to the threat of hog cholera. Mexican citrus, other than commercially treated shipments, are illegal because of fruit fly infestations in that country. (0373X205-11)

Every morning, long lines form at the U.S. gates. These Mexicans cross into the United States to work or shop. They come carrying bags and parcels of all shapes and sizes, and everything must be inspected. An innocent-looking package may hold a surprise. Recently, an agricultural quarantine inspector found over 900 citrus leaves intended for making tea. Normally this is a harmless hobby, but in this case more than 20 of the leaves were infested with eggs and living pupae of the citrus blackfly, a highly destructive pest of citrus. (0373X207-14)



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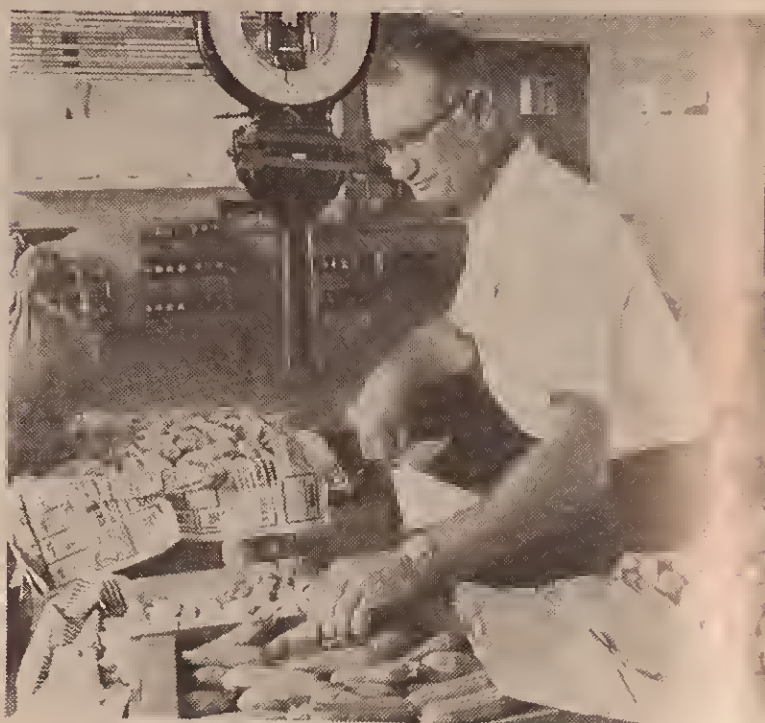


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Fresh produce from Mexican truck farmers comes across the border daily and must be inspected for insect pests and plant diseases. Pest-free shipments are allowed to proceed while diseased or infested shipments are either treated or turned back. (0773W1299-31)

Federal quarantines outlaw the bringing of certain Mexican meat and plant materials into this country because of the danger of their carrying foreign animal diseases or plant pests and diseases. To avoid having their Mexican purchases confiscated, travelers should find out, ahead of time, what they can and cannot bring back across the border. This information is available at U.S. border inspection stations, or can be obtained by writing to this address: "Quarantines," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Center Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.



USDA inspectors cross over to the Mexican side of the border to examine rail shipments before they are permitted to enter the United States. (0373X208-1)

All commercial traffic headed for the United States is stopped and inspected at the border. (ST-2520-5)



Illegal products are
confiscated and carefully de-
stroyed in a high-temperature
furnace or a garbage dis-
posal by USDA inspec-
tors. (0373X205-5)



Agricultural material received by the
U.S. Postal Service at the border is
inspected by a USDA inspector for
diseases, "hitchhiking" insects, and
soil. (0373X209-8)

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